

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 140850Z JAN 76
FM AMCONSUL OPORTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 779
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, MILI

SUBJECT: POLITCAL MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. LEFTIST SOLIDARITY WITH IMPRISONED "REVOLUTIONARIES"
ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARY PRISONERS
(CAARP) ORGANIZED RALLY OF SOLIDARITY JAN 10 AT OPORTO'S
CRYSTAL PALACE WHICH DREW CROWD OF 4,000, PRINCIPALLY YOUNG
LEFTISTS. AMCONSUL OBSERVER NOTED THAT MAIN ATTENTION WAS
DEVOTED TO CONDEMNING CURRENT WAVE OF "FASCIST BOMBINGS",
INCLUDING JAN 7 DESTRUCTION OF CAARP HEADQUARTERS (OPORTO 09).
THERE WAS LITTLE INTEREST IN THE FATE OF THOSE "REVOLUTION-
ARIES" IMPRISONED AFTER NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT EXCEPT FOR
RITUALISTIC MOTION BY ACCLAMATION DEMANDING THEIR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF BRUTALITY IN CONNECTION WITH
JAN 1 CUSTOIAS PRISON RIOT. RALLY ENDED WITHOUT INCIDENT.
COMMENT: LEFTISTS APPEAR FOR THE MOMENT TO HAVE WRITTEN OFF
IMPRISONED "REVOLUTIONARIES" EXCEPT FOR LIP SERVICE. CAMPAIGN
AGAINST ALLEGED REPRESSIONS BY POLICE (PSP) AND NATIONAL
GUARD (GNR) HAS ALSO BEEN DROPPED.

2. PRISONER TRANSFER: 12 DETAINEES HELD AT CUSTOIAS SINCE
NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT WERE TRANSFERRED JAN 10 TO SANTAREM NEAR
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LISBON. GROUP INCLUDED SEVEN OFFICERS AND ONE CIVILIAN WHO

ARE CONSIDERED PRINCIPAL OFFENDERS BY LOCAL SOURCES. SOME 70 PRISONERS FROM COUP ATTEMPT REMAIN AT CUSTOIAS. ALL ARE NOW HELD UNDER NORMAL DETENTION WITH VISITING RIGHTS.

3. MORE BOMBS: CURRENT BOMBING WAVE IN THE NORTH CONTINUED WITH PROPERTY LOSS BUT NO INJURIES:
-JAN 9 DESTRUCTION OF CAR OWNED BY COMMUNIST (PCP) IN FAFE.
-JAN 10 EXPLOSION WHICH DEMOLISHED CAR OF WELL KNOWN OPORTO JOURNALIST FERNANDO BARRADAS.
-JAN 13 RECORD-BREAKING SERIES OF FOUR BOMBS WITHIN ONE HOUR PERIOD IN OPORTO AREA. TARGETS INCLUDED A BOOKSTORE, BOUTIQUE AND HOUSE OWNED BY PCP ACTIVISTS, AND A CAR BEING USED BY PCP MEMBER REPORTEDLY BECAUSE HIS OWN HAD ALREADY BEEN BLOWN UP.
COMMENT: LEFTISTS ARE BLAMED FOR JAN 10 BOMBING BECAUSE OF VITRIOLIC ANTI-COMMUNIST COLUMNS BY BARRADAS APPEARING IN COMERCIO DO PORTO WHICH ALSO PUBLISHED RECENT BARRADAS INTERVIEWS WITH ALPOIM GALVAO, LEGENDARY FIGURE IN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PORTUGAL (MDLP), AND EX-PRESIDENT SPINOLA. THE OTHER INCIDENTS ARE CONSIDERED BY SOME TO BE THE WORK OF THE MDLP. HOWEVER, ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLER TO OPORTO RADIO STATION STATED THAT "MOVIMENTO AVANCADO DE COMMANDOS ANTICOMMUNISTAS" (ADVANCED MOVEMENT OF ANTI-COMMUNIST COMMANDOS-MACAC) WAS RESPONSIBLE. MACAC IS TOTALLY UNHEARD OF AND MAY BE RED HERRING. IN ANY CASE, JAN 13 BOMBINGS IN WIDELY SCATTERED LOCATIONS EVIDENCED A CONSIDERABLE ORGANIZATION AND SUPPLY OF EXPLOSIVES.

PENNER

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